

THE WEEKLY UNION TIMES

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Domestic Economy, Polite Literature, Politics, and the Current News of the Day.

VOL. VI.—NEW SERIES.

UNION C. H., SOUTH CAROLINA, JULY 16, 1875.

NUMBER 28.

COTTON SPINNING AT HOME.

Mr. Editor: Herewith allow me to hand you a copy of a letter received from B. F. Archer, (a practical mechanic.) Special Agent of the Patrons of Husbandry in the State of Mississippi, also, some communications and reports from Mr. Archer, published in the *Farmers' Vindicator*, the official organ of the State Grange of Mississippi—This subject you remember was brought to the attention of the "Agricultural Society of South Carolina," at its January meeting, in a series of resolutions offered by me and which were adopted by the Society.

Mr. Archer has kindly forwarded me a bat, or slider, and a sample of the yarn, which I have now before me—the yarn, though it, as Mr. Archer states, was made from inferior cotton, is well spun and strong, and is well adapted for export to India and China, especially. The Clemens attachment here alluded to, is adapted to any quality or number of yarn that would be profitable for us to spin, and there is no reason why we should not supply Europe and Asia with yarn spun from at least two to two and a half million of bales of our cotton, thereby increasing the annual value of our exports more than one hundred million dollars.—We have the white labor in the Southern States (now almost unemployed) to spin all the cotton and wool we now raise, without taking any from the fields, if our rich men would but realize that there is some higher obligation than to loan money to needy borrowers at extortionate rates of interest. Labor (white) for cotton spinning and manufacturing can be had *ad libitum* in the South, at from three to six dollars per week, according to the character of the service.

Yours truly,

WINBORN LAWTON.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER.

TAYLOR'S DEPOT, LAFAYETTE CO., MISS.

May 17th, 1875.

Winborn Lawton, Esq., Charleston S. C.

—DEAR SIR: It affords me much pleasure to reply to your letter of the 10th inst., received some days since, and will do so rather desultory. "Mountain Mills," the factory mentioned, is located in North Alabama, four miles south of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, between Huntsville and Corinth, Miss., Post office, Barton Station, Alabama. The proprietor of the Clemens' Attachment, lives at Corinth, Miss., and is erecting a factory upon the new plan, soon to begin operations, that will turn out eight hundred (800 lbs.) pounds of yarn per day.

I will be the proprietor of said factory, and I will now venture to demonstrate by word of which has been demonstrated, I could not do better. Furthermore, I could not do better. Furthermore, I could not do better.

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Large quantities of cotton goods consumed in the South are manufactured at the North, and the expense on them from the time of leaving the cotton fields until they are in the hands of the consumer, in the way of freights, drayage, storage, weighing, insurance, commissions, storage, profits and damages, cannot be less than twenty-five per cent., which, of course, is in favor of Southern mills and the consumer. We can, then, effectually and surely dispense with all manner of middle-men, so far as the production of cotton is concerned. It is concluded, that gross profits on the manufacture of baled cotton into yarns, by Northern Mills, with the present machinery, is one hundred and twenty-five per cent.; that being the case, we can safely compete on one hundred and fifty per cent.

These advantages will soon be seen by capitalists, and hence, a revolution in that special department will occur. It requires nothing but logical reasoning to deduce the fact, that in one decade a transfer of spinning machinery must take place from the North to the Southern cotton fields.

We obtained from Col. Whitfield, some data upon the present factory now in course of construction at Corinth, Miss. The building, sixty by one hundred feet, fourteen feet story, thirteen inch brick wall, he informs us, is now under contract, at five thousand dollars. He also states that the engine, and complete outfit to turn out eight hundred pounds of yarn per day, are under contract for thirteen thousand dollars. Commercial capital needed twelve thousand dollars, which he thinks ample. Making in all, total cost thirty thousand dollars. N. F. Cherry, President of the "Mountain Mills Manufacturing Company," informs me, that spinning by the new process would pay a handsome profit on a much less investment than the above quotations. We are especially indebted in making this investigation to Messrs. Whitfield, Cherry, and James Wright; to all of whom we would tender the thanks of Lafayette County Grange.

Respectfully submitted,

B. F. ARCHER.

Oxford, Miss., August 15th, 1874.

HOG CHOLERA.—It is evident that the character of this disease is greatly misunderstood or but little known. That it is of a typhoid character and a blood disease, is a well established fact. It is also certain that the most marked symptom, the diarrhoea, is the third and last stage of the disease.

Unfortunately, for the most part, it is only when this conclusion has been reached, and treatment is undertaken, is undertaken. The disorder is very contagious, and of this stage of the disease is marked only by an unusual quietness of the animal affected, and the sleepy appearance and loss of appetite are frequently considered as evidence of the well being of the sufferers, when they are really signs of the most critical stage of the disease, and indications that something must be done without loss of time. To "sleep and grow fat," is considered the business of a hog, but on the contrary the hog is an animal much given to activity, and unusual sleepiness is a certain sign of something wrong. The first stage soon gives place to more alarming symptoms. Severe abdominal pains are indicated by a great unwillingness to move, a position in which the fore feet are stretched out and the abdomen is brought close to the ground. The skin now changes color, and the blood becomes effused at the surface, causing a deep red or purple appearance of parts of the body. The eyes and mouth and inside of the ears are red, and sometimes eruptions take place. Up to this point treatment is hopeful, but afterward it is of little avail. A strong purgative should be administered as soon as any of the symptoms described have been noticed. This should consist of three or four ounces of epsom salts, half an ounce of sulphur, with one or two drachms of ground ginger, given in half a pint of well sweetened warm oat-meal gruel, or linseed tea.

Observation will almost warrant us in the assertion that corn feeding is the cause of hog cholera. And the only preventive that can safely be recommended is to feed less corn and more grasses and roots.—Exchange.

WASHING WOOLENS.—Prof. Artus, who has devoted himself to the discovery of the reason why woolen clothing when washed with soap and water, will insist upon shrinking and becoming thick, and acquiring that peculiar odor and feeling which so annoys housekeepers, says these evil effects are due to the decomposition of soap by the acids present in the perspiration and other waste of the skin which the clothing absorbs.—The fat of the soap is then precipitated upon the wool. These effects may be prevented by steeping the articles in a warm solution of washing soda for several hours, then adding some warm water and a few drops of ammonia. The woolens are then to be washed out, and rinsed in lukewarm water.—Exchange.

An English medical journal has accomplished what has always been thought an impossible task—numbering the hairs of the head. It announces that there are from 100,000 to 200,000 hairs in a lady's head, and then computes their value by relating an incident which it says happened to Madame Nilsson during her residence in New York City. She was at a fancy fair, and an admirer asked her the price of a single hair from her head. She said ten dollars, and in a few moments the Swedish songstress was surrounded by admirers anxious to buy a hair at the same rate. The proceeds were given to the fair. At this rate the value of Madame Nilsson's hair is \$2,000,000.

ROTATION OF CROPS.—THE NEGLECT OF THE PEA CROP.

Editor Southern Cultivator:—In this April No. of your paper the following plan is recommended as a proper rotation of crops, viz:

Cotton,	Corn,	Oats,
Corn,	Oats,	Cotton,
Oats,	Cotton,	Corn.

The writer advises the sowing of peas after the oats come off, to be turned under in the fall. I like the arrangement of crops very much, but would offer the following amendment to it, viz:

Oats,	Cotton,	Corn and peas,
Cotton,	Corn and peas,	Oats,
Corn and peas,	Oats,	Cotton.

That is, let the corn all be sown in peas (broadcast), at the last plowing. As soon as corn is off turn all under and put in oats. Then when the oats are off sow in peas again, turn these under in the fall, and put in rye, to be turned in in April, and you would have a rich vegetable mold that would make cotton to perfection. There could be enough peas gathered from each crop to replace the seed and pay for all extra labor required to put them in, and the rye for a winter pasture would pay a large per cent. on the cost of the seed.

There is a great deal said in our agricultural papers about clover, but in my judgment the pea is the clover for our Southern farms. We can grow peas where it would be perfect folly to attempt to raise clover, for it is a conceded fact that clover must have good soil, or it doesn't amount to anything, whereas the pea will grow on very poor land. It is strange that our Southern planters have so grossly neglected this crop and persist in doing so, when it has so many qualities to recommend it to our consideration—its cheapness, requiring very little labor to raise it—its superiority as a forage and as a fertilizer. I regard it ahead of clover for our old worn-out lands—not because it is richer in the elements of plant food, but because it grows so much more readily on poor land, and therefore what it lacks in quantity is more than made up for in quality. As a proof that this crop has been most shamefully neglected, peas are now worth in Montgomery \$1.75 to \$2.00 per bushel, while corn is selling at \$1.10 to \$1.20 per bushel, and that too when a bushel of peas can be raised for less than half what it costs to raise a bushel of corn. Will not the people cease this shameful neglect of one of the very best paying crops that they can raise in the South? Mr. Editor, please give your views on the above. If you see any point on the errors that I find in your paper, please point them out.

Pratville, Ala.

The "amendment" proposed is an excellent one. A farmer should never let an opportunity of a pea crop pass. Plant corn early, work it rapidly and lay by early. This will give the best yield of corn, and allow the peas time to mature. Gather corn as soon as dry, and be sure in ploughing under peas, to see that the corn stalks are thoroughly buried also—they are valuable, especially for the potato they contain. We have found that a good two-horse plough will bury corn stalks, even when not cut down or chopped in pieces. The double tree bends them down in front until the share lays hold of the butts. Everything should be buried sufficiently deep not to be disturbed by the harrow, when covering the oats. Peas after oats fit exactly—the only difficulty is that dry weather may defer their planting or coming up, until rather late in the season. It is good practice also, to follow this crop of peas with rye; to get the full benefit of it, however, the peas ought to be started early, and turned under by the first of October—earlier, if practicable—so as to admit of the rye being ploughed under in its turn earlier than April. A field of rye ploughed under in April would not furnish the most favorable conditions for securing a stand of cotton, and the undecomposed rye would be very much in the way in the early workings. In many cases the pea is preferable to clover—for instance, on light sandy soils, and in cases where it is desired to run a propagating crop during a short interval, as in the rotation discussed above—but where the soil is stiff, or clay subsoil is within 8 inches of the surface, even if the land is poor, clover is in our judgment greatly superior to the pea. On very poor clay lands, 300 lbs per acre of a superphosphate (not ammoniated) will give it a start, and a little plaster will keep it flourishing. It has the great advantage over the pea, that one seedling down suffices, for if allowed to mature seed in the fall, the land becomes so full of them, that a volunteer crop of clover can be secured at any time by sowing land in small grain. Such is the testimony of farmers in clover-growing countries, and such has been our own experience in Georgia. In the next place, the main growth and work of clover, is in the early spring, when the earth is still wet from the winter rains; it is seldom therefore cut off by drought—the pea often is. Again, clover has two years or more in which to do its work—the pea has a few months only.

We would not, however, be understood as uttering one word in disparagement of the pea crop. We have again and again urged its importance and value, both as a food crop and a renovator, and should consider that a long step in advance had been made, if farmers, without valley lands, would make corn for bread purposes only, and raise peas and oats for stock.—Editor Southern Cultivator.

A Minnesota Judge, in pronouncing the death sentence, tenderly observed: "If guilty, you richly deserve the fate that awaits you; if innocent, it will be a gratification for you to feel that you were hanged without such a crime on your conscience; in either case you will be delivered from a world of care."

WHAT A BIG COTTON CROP WOULD DO.

Cotton fluctuates and languishes in the foreign and domestic markets, with a largely diminished supply and the certainty that the last crop is three to four hundred thousand bales short. The market has no back bone and is not likely to have any. The trouble now is apprehension of an increased crop next fall. A half million bales excess over the incoming crop would undoubtedly diminish the money value of the whole crop to producers, even below that of the present crop.

The practical value of propitious weather to the cotton producer, therefore, will not inure to him, but to buyers and manufacturers. And he is, moreover, in the situation of a man prejudged to be guilty until he has time and opportunity to prove his innocence.

The world of cotton purchasers assume an outside limit of production until it is apparent that this limit has not been attained. Thus the shadow of the big forthcoming crop of 1875-76—though the substance does not exist, and it is as yet only a creation of fond imagination—is thrown darkly on the little remnant of the incoming crop, and shuts out all sunlight from the market.

Such is the situation, and the whole argument would be for a short cotton crop, provided the loss of product could be equally distributed among producers. The effect of increase in product is simply to impose on the grower the task of more picking, baling and hauling, without remuneration, and indeed, as we believe, at even less than a diminished product would bring to the planter.

The interest of the planter in a heavy crop is, therefore, a purely individual and not a collective interest. It is an interest merely to secure his personal share in the sum total of crop money, which he believes will be endangered by a small yield on his particular farm. If he could be assured that three bales of his short crop would bring him just as much money as five bales of a heavy crop, he would say give me the three bales all the time. I don't wish to raise and send two bales to my own cost.

But as the cotton crop covers a vast region and embraces a variety of climatic conditions, no violence of the planting interest, and no region of country feels that it has any material power in controlling the grand volume of product. If such a power could possibly be brought into existence and wisely exercised, the whole planting interest demand.

The inability of the planting interest to establish and maintain any control of cotton production among themselves (which would be the simplest and most direct remedy for the evils under which they labor), makes it clear enough to our mind that all projected combinations to control the markets and shipments of cotton in the same interest, will be equally impracticable and futile, and the chances are that they will prove disastrous. Men should not venture beyond their legitimate business—business which they have been trained to and understand in all its parts and bearings. If they do, they will blunder and learn experience at the cost of loss and failure.

We see no possible chance of controlling the cotton trade by any combinations among producers, especially in the light of the fact that combinations to regulate cotton production have been found impracticable. The only remedy we can see in the premises is a personal one, and very partial at that. It is for every cotton producer to gain a pecuniary condition in which he will not be forced to hurry his crop forward at the opening of the market, but can choose his own time for selling.

This will be some vantage ground gained, though perhaps not a very important one in respect to mere prices. It would have made no very material difference the current cotton year; but next fall, if the market opens under the depressing effects of extravagant estimates of the maturing crop and the tramp of general dull times, we can see it would make a great difference, should the crop afterwards prove light, and business revive.—Macon Telegraph and Messenger.

A Newswoman.—It is well known that blue and scarlet colors in juxtaposition cause a dazzling effect on the eye. These colors strung on a line and placed over strawberries produce a puzzling effect on birds, and no bird will enter the garden while these colors flutter in the air. Pieces of blue and scarlet should be cut about one and a half feet in length, and tied to a line one foot apart. This line is to be supported by poles six feet in height from the strawberry beds. To support strawberries, keeping them clean and enabling them to ripen all round, take a piece of stout wire a yard in length, bend it at right angles ten inches from each end, bend the space between the right angles into a curve. Stamp these two ends six inches in depth into the earth close to the strawberry plants, then draw the fruit over the wire, each plant requiring two. To prevent rusting, place the wires in creases three or four days and then dry them.—Gardener's Magazine.

A young lady was yesterday standing on the wharf at the foot of Second street, waving her handkerchief at a schooner lying in the stream. "Know anybody on board?" queried her companion, as he came along. "No, I don't; but they are waving their handkerchiefs at me," she replied. "Hand (hand) ker (hoo!) chiefs!" he exclaimed, dropping his basket and leaning against a wood pile; "why, them's the men's shirts, hung up to dry?" She waved into a warehouse.

DISHES FOR THE SICK.

CHICKEN BROTH.—Cut young chickens (old ones are too rich and strong) into small pieces, bruise or crack the bones, and put the whole, with a little rice, into a large jar with a cover. Set the jar into a large kettle of water and let the water boil and keep boiling for hours; then strain off the liquid and season with salt, a little black pepper, and add two spoonfuls of fresh milk. This is a most excellent nourishing diet for those too ill to take solid food; when not so sick, the chicken and rice can be dish up with the broth, and is very palatable.

ARROW ROOT BROTH.—Take a pint of fresh milk and let it come to a boil; stir in milk, boiling a tablespoonful of arrow root, which has been dissolved in a little cold milk or water; continue to stir that it may not lump, and let boil till thick as custard. Season with white sugar and a little nutmeg or cinnamon. If the patient does not relish sweets, season with salt.

RICE CUSTARD.—Boil half cup of rice till soft, then stir it into a pint of fresh milk, and put to boil again. Beat the yolks of two eggs with half cup of white sugar till light, and stir into the boiling milk and rice. As soon as well mixed take from the fire, or the eggs will turn. Season with cinnamon and allspice.

COUGH SYRUP.—Boil an ounce of flax for half an hour; strain and add to the liquid half pound of white sugar, or a pint of honey, an ounce of powdered gum arabic, and the juice of a lemon; let the mixture simmer together for some time, stirring occasionally. Bottle it up, and take a tablespoonful for a dose, frequently repeated.—If the cough is troublesome at night, add to the bed time dose a little paragon.

CLOVE CAKE.—Three eggs and half pound of sugar beaten light, cup of butter creamed soft, a half tea cup of cream or sour milk in which has been dissolved half teaspoonful of soda, a tablespoonful of powdered cloves, and flour enough to form a soft dough. Roll thin and bake light brown.

POTATO PUFFS.—Mash the potatoes soft, and mix smooth with an egg; mince fine cold beef or mutton, (ham can be used but is not so good) season with salt, pepper, a little onion and celery; mix all together, make into balls, dredge with flour, and fry brown.—Southern Cultivator.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

AP with cold spring water. Put them in a vessel of water up to the neck, boil half an hour, tie bladders or oil-skin over tight, or cook and seal while hot. Let them set until cold. Keep in a cool place. Use as soon as opened. Pack hay around while boiling, to steady them. I put them